

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08
COME-00 TRSE-00 IO-13 ACDA-07 /086 W
-----290205Z 086462 /72-61

R 281120Z JAN 77
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3911
AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 0300

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB, GE, GW, UR
SUBJECT: S-BAHN

REFS: A) USBERLIN 197; B) BONN 1211

1. AT MEETING JAN 24 ATTENDED BY DEP POLADS, LEGAL ADVISERS
AND ECON ADVISERS, THREE MISSION LOOKED AT GROWING COL-
LECTION OF REICHSBAHN PROBLEMS, INCLUDING FAILURE OF
REICHSBAHN TO COMPLY WITH LEGISLATION IN FORCE IN WSB
(USBER 273), GDR REQUEST FOR RISE IN OR IMPOSITION OF NEW
TARIFFS FOR ALLIED TRAIN TRAFFIC TO BERLIN (USBER 268),
AND S-BAHN ISSUE.

2. ON S-BAHN, PARTICIPANTS AGREED THAT THERE HAD NOW
BEEN ENOUGH INDICATIONS OF GDR INTENTION TO TAKE ACTION
(REF A) TO WARRANT IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION OF ISSUE.
PARTICIPANTS WERE OF ONE MIND THAT IN THE EVENT OF
TOTAL CURTAILMENT OF SERVICES, OR OF CUTTING OUT SERVICE
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ON CERTAIN ROUTES, ONLY POSSIBLE ALLIED RIPOSTE WOULD
HAVE TO BE SEIZING OF PROPERTY FOR EVENTUAL TURNOVER
TO GERMAN OFFICE WHICH MANAGES OTHER SEQUESTERED
REICHSBAHN ASSETS. HOWEVER, DESPITE LONG-STANDING
SENAT POSITION THAT IT DOES NOT WISH TO DISCUSS S-BAHN
WITH GDR AND THAT S-BAHN IS PURELY ALLIED MATTER, SOME
DOUBT REMAINED WHETHER THIS SOLUTION IS REALLY WHAT SENAT

ENVISAGES. GOV MAYOR SCHUETZ' FLAT PROHIBITION ON HIS STAFF TO DISCUSS ISSUE HAS IN EFFECT DRIED UP SENAT/ ALLIED INTERCHANGE ON QUESTION. ACCORDINGLY, PARTICIPANTS AGREED THAT AN EARLY MEETING SHOULD BE ARRANGED WITH APPROPRIATE SENAT EXPERTS TO REVIEW PROBLEM, INCLUDING IMPACT OF ABOVE OUTCOME ON SENAT TRANSPORTATION PLANNING. THIS MEETING HAS BEEN ARRANGED FOR JAN. 31.

3. WHILE MAJORITY OF PARTICIPANTS AT MEETING OPPOSED US SUGGESTION THAT SOVIETS SHOULD BE TOLD WHAT CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH GDR ACTION WOULD BE, ALL FELT THAT DISCUSSION WITH SENAT COULD LEAD TO LEAK AND THAT, IF SO, NO HARM WOULD BE DONE. US REPRESENTATIVES ARGUED THAT CLARITY ON MATTER OF THIS SORT WAS BENEFICIAL. THERE SHOULD BE NO IMPRESSION LEFT IN GDR MINDS THAT CURTAILING OR CUTTING OUT S-BAHN SERVICES WOULD RESULT IN CONTINUED AND INDEFINITE REICHSBAHN CONTROL OVER UNUSED DETERIORATING TRACK, STATIONS, ETC.

4. US REP ALSO POINTED OUT THAT WHILE THIS COUNTERMEASURE WAS ONLY PROPER ALLIED RESPONSE, GDR AND SOVIET LEGAL POSITION REMAINED THAT REICHSBAHN BELONGED TO GDR AND THAT THEY WOULD NOT PERMIT THEMSELVES TO BE DIVESTED OF THIS ASSET WITHOUT SAYING A WORD. POSSIBLY, GDR MIGHT OFFER TO SELL S-BAHN SYSTEM; IT ALREADY LAUNCHED A TRIAL BALLOON ABOUT LEASING IT LAST YEAR. OBVIOUSLY, NO ONE WANTED TO BUY OR BARGAIN FOR PROPERTY WHICH GDR DID NOT OWN, PARTICULARLY IF CONFIDENTIAL

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REICHSBAHN UNILATERALLY GAVE UP ITS OPERATING LICENSE, BUT THERE IS A POLITICAL PROBLEM TO BE BORNE IN MIND IF AND AS ABOVE SCENARIO UNFOLDS. ALLIES WOULD HAVE TO CONSIDER FURTHER WHETHER IT WOULD NOT HELP US IN LONG RUN TO MAKE CLEAR TO SOVIETS BEFORE THEY AND GDR TAKE FINAL DECISIONS ON MAINTENANCE OF S-BAHN SERVICE THAT WE WOULD NOT NEGOTIATE OVER DISPOSITION OF ABANDONED PROPERTY IN WESTERN SECTORS.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: NO ACTION SEEMS REQUIRED UNTIL MISSIONS HAVE OBTAINED CLEAR VIEWS OF SENAT. DAVIS

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 28-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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